JETS COMICS

川下寛次

2

当て屋の椿

あたしは椿
無くし物を捜すのが仕事だよ

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JETS COMICS

当て屋の椿

ツバキ

Ateya no Tsubaki

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簪（かんざし）の身に危険が…椿（つばき）が駆ける!!
謎が謎を呼ぶ「浄瑠璃心中」編をメインに収録。

奇想天外な
大江戸吉原ミステリー、第2巻。

Ateya no Tsubaki
Kanji Kawashita

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JETS COMICS

当て屋の椿

ツバキ

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JETS COMICS
YOUNG ANIMAL PRESENTS

当て屋の椿
ツバキ

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Kanji Kawashita

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当屋の人達

JETS COMICS

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This is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to actual persons, organizations, or events is entirely coincidental.

HAA.

HAA,

HA.

HA,

HAH.

HA,

HA,

HA.

AH.

Drip

...КАН,

НАА
...

HA.

HA,

Chapter 9 ❖ The Tale of the Lovers' Suicide Ballad (Part 1)

WHY, IF IT ISN'T MIT-SURUYA'S —

AH, SHE'S HERE!

TSUBAKI -SAN!!

HA,

PANT,

KAGA RI'S...

SHE WAS BEING C-CHOKED AS THEY CON-SUMMATED THEIR MAR-RIAGE...

Pant, Pant,

LOVERS' SUICIDE?

*TN: Young girls who served high-class prostitutes in the Edo period.

SHE TOLD A YOUNG LAD, BUT...

A KAMURO* HAPPENED TO SNEAK A PEEK INSIDE.

I AL-READY MADE IT SO YOU CAN GO THROUGH THE YOSHI-WARA'S GATES!

AH, TSU BAKI-SAN!

IT SYMBOLIZES A MAN AND WOMAN'S FIDELITY TO ONE ANOTHER. THE ACT CONSISTS OF A WRITTEN OATH, CLIPPING ONE'S NAILS, TATTOOING ONESELF, CUTTING OFF ONE'S FINGERS, CUTTING ONE'S ARMS AND THIGHS,

AND LASTLY, DEATH BY SUICIDE.

ORIGINALLY, "LOVERS' SUICIDE" WAS SYNONY-MOUS WITH "DEVOTION."

A DEVOTED DEATH.

OH DEAR, THESE ARE SCARS.

WHAT?

Cough,

cough!

HUH?

REALLY?

DON'T WORRY. IT'S NOT AS TERRIBLE AS EVERYONE SAYS IT IS.

THOSE MARKS WILL DISAPPEAR RIGHT AWAY.

HEY, STOP!

UWA AH!

HOP

ARGH.

KASA R''

AH!

TSUU-
CHA...

HM?

HUFF.

HUFF.

IF YOU'RE GONNA DIE, DO IT ON YOUR OWN!!

YOU PIECE OF SHIT!!

THE MASTER OF EROTIC ART?

NOW DIE, YOU TRASH —!!

ora Ora ora ora

I ONLY CAME TO THE YOSHIWARA TO PAINT EROTIC ART

WHAT DID I DO TO DESERVE THIS...

I TOLD YOU,

SHUT UP.

ER, YOU'RE KINDA BEAT UP, BUT YOU'RE STILL HANDSOME.

YOUR NOSE IS BLEEDING, BY THE WAY.

O-OH, THANKS.

HERE YOU GO, HOU-SHAN!!

HERE YO GO, TSUU-CHAN!

THE GIRL'S LIKE A LITTLE KID WHO NEVER MATURED, EMOTIONALLY OR INTELLECTUALLY.

WHAT COULD'VE MADE THOSE KINDA MARKS ON HER SLENDER NECK?

RIGHT, YOU PROMISED ME A PRESENT.

SOME UIROU*.

*TN: Traditional steamed cake made of rice flour, azuki beans, and sugars

IT LOOKS DELI-CIOUS.

IT'S ALL YOURS.

I'D SAY WE'RE CLOSE FRIENDS,

BUT THIS ECCENTRIC IS ONLY GENEROUS WITH KAGARI.

DID THE ALWAYS-COMPOSED TSUBAKI RUN HERE?

YAWN.

I'M SLEEPY.

HER FORE-HEAD'S GLISTENING WITH SWEAT.

ハァ

Slam

にこ にこにこ

SO?

WHERE IS HE?

ビクッ

HE TOOK ADVAN-TAGE OF KAGARI'S INABILITY TO EXPLAIN HERSELF!

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT A LOVERS' SUICIDE !!?

WE-

WELL —

WOULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN A FORCED SUICIDE? THAT BASTARD!!

HE'S PROBA-BLY...

IN THE SO-CALLED, UM, "PUN-ISHMENT ROOM"...

SENSEI, YOU KNOW HIM?

YA TSU HA!?

... HOU SEN ...

NOW, I HEAR HE MAKES THE HEADS OF THE PUP-PETS USED IN NINGYOU JOURURI*.

WE USED TO GO TO THE SAME SCHOOL TO LEARN HOW TO DRAW...

*TN: A form of traditional puppet theater nowadays known as "bunraku."

UGH!

OW!

OW!

I HEAR YOU'RE ONE OF MASTER CRAFTSMEN, MATSUBA'S APPRENTICES.

YA TSU HA ...

YOU SHOULD STICK TO QUIETLY HANDLING PUPPETS.

SWISH

DON'T BOTHER REVEALING ANYTHING.

YOU DON'T WANT THE IMPERIAL COURT TO HAVE THEIR EYE ON YOU CONCERNING THIS INCIDENT, SENSEI.

COMMIT-TING LOVERS' SUICIDE IS A GRAVE SIN.

OF COURSE THE OWNER OF THE BROTHEL IS ON EDGE.

GAH!

WE KNOW YOUR BACK-GROUND.

DON'T COME BACK TO THE YOSHIWARA!!

IF BOTH SURVIVE, THEY'RE DISPLAYED ON THE NIHON BRIDGE FOR THREE DAYS, NAKED, STRIPPED OF ALL THEIR RIGHTS.

IF ONE OF THEM SURVIVES, THEY'RE CONSIDERED THE PRINCIPAL

NO ONE'S ALLOWED TO MOURN FOR THOSE WHO DO.

COMMITTING LOVERS' SUICIDE REQUIRES YOU TO BE VERY MUCH PREPARED.

THE YOUNG, NAKED GIRL ON DISPLAY WILL SOMETIMES BE TREATED ROUGHLY.

.....

I SEE.

SHE'S GOOD.

HOUSEN, DID YOU SLEEP WITH HER?

HOW'S KAGARI?

YATSUHA, WHY WOULD YOU DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS? DOING THAT TO KAGARI—

OF COURSE. ..YOU DIDN'T.

...OH.

N-NO, I'M...

UM, A FRIEND OF HER FRIEND —

WHY YOU ...

YOU KNOW WHAT I'M LIKE. YOU DID THAT ON PURPOSE—!!

I'M CONCERNED...

I DON'T GET YOU.

I DON'T GET WHY YOU'RE A VULGAR, EROTIC ARTIST.

YOU'RE HAVING A HARD TIME FIGURING IT OUT?

ASKING HOUSEN-SENSEI, OF ALL THE EROTIC ARTISTS, FOR HELP IN THE NAME OF YOUR MASTER

ISN'T DIS-GRACEFUL, Y'KNOW.

Blush

WHAT'S THAT!?

AUGH!

YOU BITCH ... OW!

YOU'RE A WANTED MAN IN THE YOSHIWARA DISTRICT.

NOW HURRY UP AND LEAVE.

YOU SHOULD TURN TAIL AND RUN.

WHERE DID THAT COME FROM...?

ふぅ ふぅ。

YATSU-HA'S TOUGH. I'M SURE HIS PRIDE WASN'T AFFECT-ED.

FEH! ちょっとあたり ねえ

BUT HE FELT A LITTLE BIT RE-LIEVED.

SHE'S AWFULLY AGGRES-SIVE!!

HER VERBAL ABUSE IS UNPARAL-LELED!!

SHE BRINGS UP SENSITIVE TOPICS AND PISSES YOU OFF.

……

I STILL DON'T LIKE THAT SHAGGY-HAIRED GUY.

HUH? SHAGGY?

OH, YOU MEAN YATSUHA.

I WON'T GET ANY BREAKS UNTIL NIGHT-FALL. I'M SORRY I WON'T BE ABLE TO ATTEND TO YOU.

WHOA!

AS LONG AS I HAVE SOME SAKE, I'M GOOD. ♥

DON'T BOTHER.

EEE, IT'S HOUSEN-SENSEI! ♥

WELCOME!

GUH!

NO, I MEAN—

YOU'RE HARSH.

EVEN THOUGH HE'S MATSUBA'S ONLY SON, HE'S NO MATCH FOR HIS FELLOW SENIOR APPREN-TICE...

……

WAS HE REALLY PLANNING TO COMMIT LOVERS' SUICIDE?

whisper

THE SMALL, FLORAL POUCH

THAT THE MAN HID IN HIS BREAST POCKET...

FULL OF A WOMAN'S FEELINGS?

ISN'T IT

AH!

I LOVE YOU!

H!

...I LOVE YOU.

I LOVE YOU ...

YA
TSU
HA-
SAN
...

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